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Does the flower bloom?

Hidaka Shoko

I

DOES THE FLOWER BLOOM?

I

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花は咲くか

日高ショーコ

Does the flower bloom?

Hidako Shoko

第Ⅰ話

BUT MY ENTHUSIASM RAPIDLY WANED AT SOME POINT.

I WAS ALWAYS THRILLED IN THE BEGINNING,

I WAS NEVER GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PLANTS AND FLOWERS SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

THE LEAFY PLANTS IN MY ROOM HAD LONG BEEN DEAD WHEN I CAME AROUND TO NOTICING THEM.

THE CACTUS FORGOTTEN ON MY DESK ENDED UP BEING FLATTENED BY A PILE OF PAPERS.

...AGAIN.

HOW MANY WOMEN HAVE LEFT ME?

MY PASSION TOWARDS THE THINGS I THOUGHT I WOULD FOREVER LOVE WERE DESTINED TO FADE AWAY.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME? I COULDN'T TELL.

AH!

IT

GARDENING
IS A HOBBY

Let's start gardening by asking the experts

COULD IT BE THAT...

...NO PASSION ACTUALLY EXISTED FROM THE BEGINNING?

TEN MORE MINUTES TO IZUMISAWA...

IT'S A THIRTY MINUTE RIDE FROM THE OFFICE.

WHERE AM I?

RATTLE

OH.

RATTLE

DROPPED IT...

RATTLE

Bother.

TAP

IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

I BROKE UP WITH MY LOVER AND BOUGHT A HOME.

I BOUGHT AN APARTMENT LAST YEAR JUST TO SECURE A PLACE TO HAVE A GOOD SLEEP.

NO MATTER WHERE I LIVE, MY LIFE IS ALWAYS LACKING IN LEISURE.

flip

BUT THERE IS NO POINT IN DOING THAT SINCE I USUALLY GET HOME AFTER MIDNIGHT.

I CONSIDERED OWNING A SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE,

doze

I WANT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT,

BUT IT'S JUST IMPOS-SIBLE.

WORK IS EVERYTHING AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF SLEEP. I'M ALWAYS TIRED.

I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND GO TO WORK.

IZUMI-SAWA...

IZUMI-SAWA.

GO TO THE SECOND PLATFORM FOR THE TRANSFER.

AH!?

SPLISH

THUD

AH.

CLIP

!!

SPLASH

BUMP

IT'S HEAVY...

DAMN.

BUT IT'S A BOTHER TO ASK SOMEONE TO DO IT FOR ME...

!!

I SHOULD HAVE FINISHED MY WORK AT THE OFFICE.

...AH.

HEY! GIVE ME A HAND, WILL YOU!?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!

ANY-THING,

ANY-THING TO TO WIPE UP WITH.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

...

PANIC

DAMN IT!

MY DOCUMENTS!! PAPERS!!!

AND MY SHIRT!!!

SORRY.

I'M TRYING TO APOLOGIZE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK SO LOUDLY.

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUY THINKING!?

Is he looking down on me?

DRIP

DRIP

GOSH. . IT TOOK ME AGES TO GET THIS.

...

RUSTLE

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!!

YOU BUMPED INTO ME!

RUSTLE

IT'S A PAST ISSUE, RIGHT? I HAVE THE SAME ONE, SO LET'S SWAP.

HUH?

WANT TO COME TO MY HOUSE?

PICK UP

..THEN,

...

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY?

IS HE

A COLLEGE STUDENT?

HEY!!

STOMP STOMP STOMP

Give it back to me!

WAIT A SECOND!

I HAVEN'T AGREED YET ..

LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!!

DO YOU MIND WALKING A BIT?

CAN'T BELIEVE IT

STOMP

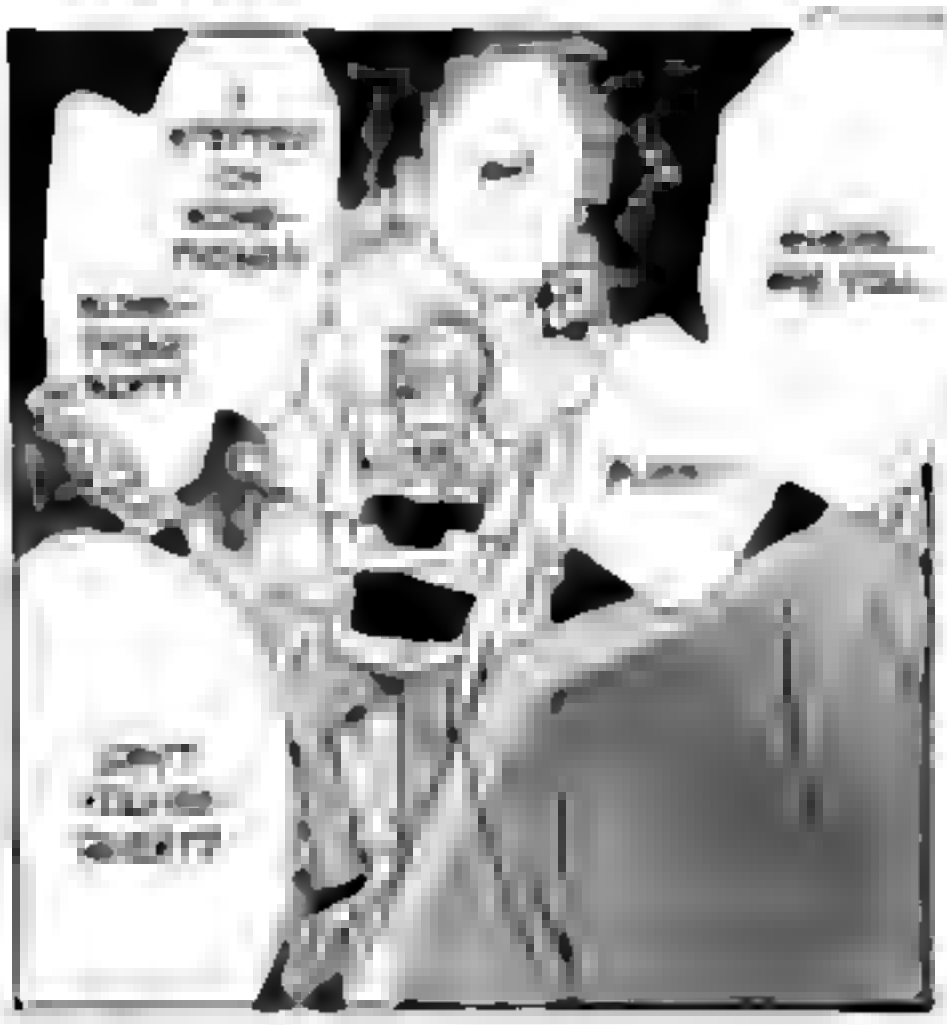
HURRY UP.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Where's my pass?









WE'RE HERE.

HUH?

IT TAKES EVEN LONGER TO GET TO THE HOUSE FROM THE FRONT GATE, SO WE'RE CROSSING THE YARD.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

HEY,

HEY, HOW MUCH FURTHER DO I HAVE TO GO...?

CHIRP CHIRP

Sorry for being noisy.

SLIDE

YARD?

WAS I WALKING THROUGH THE YARD?

WHAT ON EARTH

LEFT ALONE

He handed me a towe and str.pped my sh.rt away

*TOKONOMA

CREAK

AM I HERE FOR...?

silence

*TOKONOMA An ALCOVE OR RECESSED SPACE

IT'S HUGE MAYBE BUILT AT THE END OF THE TAISHO ERA?

Or much older?

IT LOOKS NEW INSIDE, THOUGH

SLIDE

IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE THE END OF THE HALL

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH.

WELL,

THIS HOUSE IS AMAZING.

WHEN WAS IT BUILT?

PLEASE STAY IN THIS ROOM.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO BOTHER THE OTHERS.

*HE SAYS ENGAWA HERE BUT IT MEANS VERANDA THAT WAS TRADITIONALLY REFERRED TO AS NURIEN

YOU CAN WATCH CHERRY BLOSSOMS FROM THE VERANDA*.

YOU CAN ENJOY A SPLENDID VIEW IN SPRING.

...

IT'S GREAT YOU'RE REALLY TAKING GOOD CARE OF THE HOUSE.

I CAN TELL YOU LOVE IT.

OH!

...

I'M NOT SURE. I HEARD THAT ONLY THIS AREA HAD ESCAPED FROM THE AIR RAID IN TOKYO.

I SEE. THAT'S WHY THERE ARE MANY OLD HOUSES AROUND HERE.

HUH?

A PHOTO SHOOT ..

YOU BOTH MENTIONED THE SAME THING

THE WOOD USED IN THE PILLARS AND FLOORS IS ALSO.

IT HAS A GREAT ATMOSPHERE AND IS SUITED FOR A PHOTO SHOOT.

I DO LOVE IT

THIS MAGAZINE'S NOT WELL-KNOWN AND IS ONLY AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES OVERSEAS. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO FIND A REPLACEMENT COPY.

YOU KNOW .

DO YOU LIKE THESE PICTURES?

OH!!

YES, YOU BET!!

HERE YOU GO.

THIS IS THE SAME ONE, RIGHT?

YOU SAVED ME. THANK YOU.

HERE.

SILENCE

WE...L...

THERE ARE MANY UNIQUE PICTURES THAT I LIKE, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY RETAILERS IN JAPAN WHO SELL THIS MAGAZINE.

...

WAA!

FLIP

I WASHED AND DRIED YOUR SHIRT.

NO STAINS LEFT.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

...

OH...

...WELL?

I MEAN...

NO NEED

...AND,

IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT.

TO THANK ME.

I WANT TO SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NOW.

YOU GOT A MAGAZINE. YOUR SHIRT IS CLEAN.

WHAT IS THIS?

WHO IS THIS KID?

YEAH, I AM PARTLY TO BLAME. .

KEEP COOL

CALM DOWN!

HE'S JUST YOUNG

He he

AH! FOUND YOU!

SLIDE

...!! HEY!!

BLUNT

I THINK I WAS OVERLY UPSET.

QUITE TRUE.

...

WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?

Old man...!?

!!

STUNNED

WE RAN INTO A MISHAP AT THE STATION.

HE'S JUST LEAVING NOW

ACQUAINTANCE? OF YOU-CHAN'S? OH, REALLY?

THE BATH IS READY!

THANK YOU.

GOOD NIGHT

AND YOU TOO, OLD MAN.

GOOD NIGHT

He said it again.

AH.. GOOD NIGHT ..

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HEARD THE WORD "BOARDER."

YES.

BOARDER?

NO, HE'S A BOARDER.

WELL, IS HE YOUR BROTHER?

ARENT YOU LEAVING NOW?

THE TREES OUTSIDE ARE GOOD TOO. THE AIR IS DIFFERENT THERE.

IT'S A BIG HOUSE AND NICE FOR ROOM-SHARING

More people, easier to clean up

YOU'RE DEFINITELY RIGHT

IT'S ALMOST ONE O'CLOCK.

YOU HAVE WORK TOMORROW, RIGHT?

I'M BUSY, TOO.

MMM

A TRAIN IS APPROACH- ING THE TH RD LANE.

STAY BEHIND THE WH TE LINES.

WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT

SUCKS

RATTLE

RATTLE

THE HOUSE MIGHT BE AROUND THERE

TREES EVERY- WHERE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

THE TRAIN IS NOW DEPARTING.

1

MMM I FEEL SICK

I HAVE A HEAD-ACHE

SAKURAI-KUN!

WILL YOU MAKE A PRESENTATION FOR THE AUTUMN CAMPAIGN?

YES, OKAY.

KLUNK

Yes. I see.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE DOCUMENTS AND .

YOU TOOK YOUR WORK HOME YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?

GOT IT

OKAY, LEAVE IT THERE.

Can't believe it.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HECK

I HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER PRESENTA-TION !

SCRATCH SCRATCH

SAKURAI-SAN.

WILL YOU CHECK THIS OUT?

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

ANYWAY, I'LL BE TAKING A SUMMER HOLIDAY AFTER THE AUTUMN CAMPAIGN.

IN THAT CASE, YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LONG ONE,

SAKUSAI-SAN. YOU HAVE A CALL ON EXTENSION FIVE.

YES.

THROB

MY STOMACH HAS BEEN HURTING SINCE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY

Where is it?

YES, YES.

I'M LIS-TENING

OR YOU'LL BE STRESSED OUT SOON!

I'm telling you.

PHEW...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SO?

OH, WHAT IS IT?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

It's already eight

I'M WORN OUT

I THOUGHT I WOULD FIND YOU HERE.

WE'RE ALWAYS ASKED TO REDO IT ANYWAY

FLIP

...

I SEE NOTHING WRONG JUST HAND THIS TO THE CLIENT

GOT IT.

COULD YOU CHECK THIS OUT?

WELL...

IT'S THE DRAFT FOR A NEW WINE AD

Hey,

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UGH...

I'M OKAY. I'M OKAY.

YOU'D BETTER MAKE ANOTHER PLAN WITH A TALENT IN IT. .

RIGHT.

THROB

YOU WORK TOO MUCH.

I'VE HAD A STOMACH ACHE AND A HEADACHE SINCE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.

THROB

THROB

!

I'LL START ON THAT ONE ONCE I'VE FINISHED THE AD I'M DOING NOW.

YEAH.

NEXT WEEK WE'RE GIVING A PRESENTATION TO T HOTEL, RIGHT?

YOU'D BETTER GO HOME EARLY

I'D LIKE TO USE PICTURES LIKE THIS FOR THE AD

I've already talked to the photographer

IS THAT SO?

WHAT'S THIS?

GOOD...

THEN TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THIS.

YES, IT WAS.

flip flip

IT'S EXPENSIVE, ISN'T IT?

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAGAZINE.

It's nice.

HERE YOU GO

THIS IS THE SAME ONE, RIGHT?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN IT

IF HE IS A COLLEGE STUDENT

AH!

WOBBLE

screeech

RATTLE

WHERE AM I?

RATTLE

RATTLE

I FELT TERRIBLE

CAN'T STOP SHIVERING

KA-CHACK

KA-CHACK

KA-CHACK

STEP

tatter

tatter

tatter

tatter

SLIDE

I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A TAXI

OH!

BAM

OUCH!

HEY, WATCH OUT ..

HUH?

WHAT!?

BUSTLE BUSTLE BUSTLE

SINK DOWN

Ouuuu

WHAT'S WRONG, SHOUTA?

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

LAUGHH

HEY,

BRING SOMEONE FROM THE OFFICE AT THE STATION?

YEAH... HUH?

wheeze wheeze wheeze

THIS MAN. .

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

YES... NOT ME, BUT HE'S...

A FRIEND OF
YOU-CHAN'S





A COLD HAND AND A SOFT VOICE.

YOU SHOULD REST.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP THIS SOUNDLY

MMMM

SNAP

MMMM

MMMM

HE'S AWAKE!

OH... YES.

I REMEMBER BITS OF IT

GOOD! I'M RELIEVED.

WHAT ?

DO YOU REMEMBER LAST NIGHT?

YOU FAINTED AT THE STATION.

...HUH?

LAST NIGHT?

HUH

OH, IT'S ELEVEN.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK!?

I DIDN'T THINK I COULD MAKE IT BY MYSELF.

WHAT... WHAT TIME IS IT NOW!?

TAKE-SAN CARRIED YOU HERE.

That guy with a black shirt.

I CALLED UP THE OFFICE AND SAID YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE A DAY OFF!

NO NEED TO WORRY.

SWOOSH

WORK!!!

THUD

!!

I DIDN'T ASK, BUT I WENT AHEAD AND LOOKED THROUGH YOUR BELONGINGS.

BY THE WAY, I INTRODUCED MYSELF AS YOUR BROTHER!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Called up?

WHAT ...!?

I TALKED TO A MAN CALLED INOUE-SAN!!

I TOLD THEM YOU HAVE A FEVER AND CAN'T MOVE.

THEY ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU

THEY SAID THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR WORK AND THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE A LONG REST!

.....

Where has my privacy gone .?

HAVE I CAUSED ANY TROUBLE?

No, I don't.

Do you have a brother?

Personal information protection .aw...

YOU'RE A FRIEND OF YOU-CHAN'S, RIGHT?

WELL... ANYWAY,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERY-THING.

Sorry for the trouble

I'll have to call the office later ...

AS IF I COULD!

YOU-CHAN TOOK CARE OF YOU LAST NIGHT

THE BATH IS READY!!

He called me an old man

OH!

So this is

HE'S THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE! YOU WERE TALKING WITH HIM IN HERE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY!

..WHO IS THIS YOU-CHAN?

HUH?

THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR HIM.

YOU-CHAN IS A NICE PERSON, BUT HE USUALLY DOESN'T GET ALONG WELL WITH OTHERS.

...YES.

SORRY.

SORRY FOR TAKING A DAY OFF.

THANK YOU.

BIP.

THE SUN. .

AND THE SKY.

AH IT S TOO BRIGHT

The sky is blue, indeed

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE LAST LOOKED UP AT THE SKY LIKE THIS

I'LL GET BITTEN BY MOSQUI-TOES

I st I fee dizzy

Phew

IT SEEMS TO BE LEFT TO RUN WILD

rustle

IT'S A WIDE YARD

AND

cruel

IT'S NOTHING.

I'VE DONE NOTHING THAT YOU'RE OBLIGED TO THANK ME FOR.

THANK YOU.

OH...

WELL.

...

WELL.

YOU-CHAN?

I'M REALLY THANKFUL THAT YOU TOOK CARE OF ME AND YOU REPLACED THE MAGAZINE..

IT WAS SHOUTA WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE.

BUT YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING REALLY PISSES ME OFF.

AND WE'VE MET ONCE BEFORE.

NO ONE SHOULD LEAVE A SICK PERSON TO FEND FOR HIMSELF,

I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN TOLD THIS BEFORE.

NEVER.

YOU SOUND RATHER IMPUDENT AND ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES!

NOT ALL GROWN-UPS ARE GENEROUS LIKE ME!

wobble

104°F

100°F

PISS ME—

FLOP

YOU SURE...

UNGH

I'VE NEVER BEEN TOLD THAT I'M IMPUDENT

I ALWAYS GET ALONG WITH THOSE WHO ARE MORE GROWN-UP THAN YOU.

I'M GOING TO GO NOW.

!!

UPSET

I'VE NEVER SEEN...

CRUNCH

...

MIIIA

MIIIA MIIIA

slither slither

...YOU-CHAN LAUGHING.

tbc

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花は咲くか I

日高ショーコ

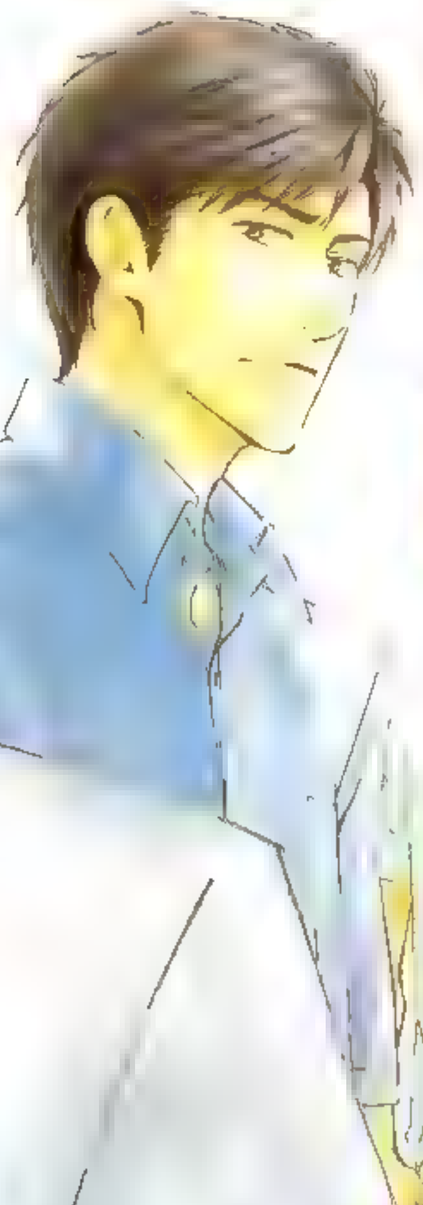
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Does the Flower Bloom? I

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Sakurai, who works for an ad agency, bumped into a young man on his way home and dropped some business materials and a magazine and they were destroyed. Luckily, the young man happened to have the same magazine and offered to give it to Sakurai, so Sakurai followed him to his house. The young man, Minagawa Youichi, who is a college student, owns a big old house which used to be a boarding home. Sakurai thinks Minagawa is unsociable and hard to get along with but somehow he ends up visiting the house frequently.





Does the flower bloom?

Hidaka Shoko

RING

RING

RING

RING

CLICK

THANK YOU FOR CALLING THE PHONE IS OFF OR OUT OF THE SERVICE AREA NOW

BP

FREEZE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

...OH...

WE..L.. I MEAN..

EVEN A TINY BIT OF STONE COULD HAVE BROKEN A WINDOW.

STOP BEHAVING LIKE A CHILD.

WHOOSH

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!

IT WON'T HAPPEN.

OF COURSE, I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.

WHAT... Several...?

NO WAY!

HMPH

A stone!!

Just a tiny bit!!

How on Earth can this break a window?

IF YOU BREAK ONE PANE OF GLASS, YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THEM ALL. IT'LL COST MORE THAN SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.

...UMM.

YOU CAN ENTER FROM THE FRONT GATE IF YOU WANT TO DROP BY

SLIDE

AND DON'T BARGE IN FROM THE SIDE GATE.

IS THAT SO..

I DON'T KNOW I THINK HE WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATE.

...SO,

IS SHOUTA... IN?

SHOUTA?

HEY!

LOOK OVER THERE AT THAT SMALL PATCH SURROUNDED BY THE STONES!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE PLANTS THERE?

AND SAKURAI-SAN,

AFTER THAT, I DON'T KNOW

THERE WAS SOMETHING THERE UNTIL ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO.

fshhh

...

SHUT

SEE YOU.

YOU'D BETTER GET GOING NOW.

HEY!

WHAT!?

I OWN THIS LAND SO DON'T PLANT ANYTHING WITHOUT MY PERMISSION,

OR ELSE I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO PAY FOR IT.

sigh

I CAN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH, CAN I?

oo

It's so childish

oo

I ENTERED FROM THE YARD

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU.

I HEARD IT'S A BOARDING HOUSE NOW

HUGE

FIFTEEN MINUTES FROM THE STATION A SPACIOUS OLD HOUSE AND A WIDE YARD LIKE A FOREST LOCATED IN A QUIET RESIDENTIAL AREA

THREE MONTHS AGO THIS SUMMER, I MET HIM THE COLLEGE STUDENT WHO OWNS THIS HOUSE

JIZOU!?*

Scary

whoosh

DOES HE TAKE CARE OF THIS HOUSE BY HIMSELF?

The rich

crunch

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM

HE'S NOT SOCIABLE

HE CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO MAKE SMALL TALK

I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH HIM

PLEASE? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ACCOMPANY ME.

IT'LL BE A BIG MEETING WITH MANY PEOPLE FROM THE AD AGENCY WE COLLABORATE WITH.

I THINK THERE WILL BE ABOUT FIFTEEN ATTENDANTS.

I'VE GOT TONS OF THINGS TO DO BESIDES GOING TO THE MEETING..

THAT'S TRUE, BUT. .

THEY CALL IT A MEETING, BUT WE ONLY EXCHANGE NAME CARDS AND PASS OUT SOME HANDOUTS, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY I DON'T FEEL LIKE JOINING THOSE MEETINGS.

click click

I KNOW.

SO, I'M BEGGING YOU TO COME.

LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS I'VE ALREADY GOT TO DO!!

GLARE!

SLAP

SLAP

PLEASE CALM DOWN.

WHAT?

NO WAY!

SALES PERSONS

SWOOP

WHAT IF WE ASK SONOKO-SAN TO WORK ON ALL OF THIS PAPERWORK!?

Hmm.

I'D REALLY APPRE-CIATE IT

SUCKS.

HEY, INOUE. .

THUD

ALL THE SECTION CHIEFS WILL JOIN IT.

THEN, LET'S HAVE A MEETING LATER.

EEE!

THANK YOU!

AH!

Sakurai-san, look it over, please.

A pile

PLEASE? YOU'RE MY SENIOR!

YOU ALWAYS TRY TO STAY AWAY FROM SOCIAL AFFAIRS!

IF I ATTEND THE MEETING, I'LL DIE FROM OVERWORK.

I DON'T WANT TO

Yagh

I haven't been getting enough sleep lately.

WE'RE GOING TO PRODUCE THE AD, BUT IT'S CHUOU AD AGENCY WHICH MATCHES THE ORIGINAL PLAN. SO I'D LIKE TO APPEAL TO THEM WITH AS MANY ATTENDANTS AS POSSIBLE TO SHOW THAT WE'RE GOING TO LEAD THE PROJECT

I UNDER-STAND THAT, BUT...

WHY AREN'T YOU GOING WITH THE SECTION CHIEF?

YOU CAN GIVE THE PRESENTATION. YOU'RE QUITE EXCITED ABOUT DOING THAT

BUT YOU'RE SINGLE.

What?

YOU BOUGHT AN APARTMENT?

YOU BOUGHT AN APARTMENT, DIDN'T YOU? YOU SURE WILL HAVE A BIG SURPRISE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Bonus bonus!!

DOMESTIC WINE FROM KATAYAMA BUSSAN

I CAN HEAR YOU.

YOU'D BETTER NOT MENTION IT . HE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SINGLE NOW.

Oh..

buzz buzz .

buzz

I know.

Go back to work.

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

EXCUSE ME.. SAKURAI-SAN?

IT S AN OVER-USED CLICHE

THIS PLAN WILL BE HEAVILY REVISED AT THE MEETING

INOUE HAS GOOD TASTE, BUT HE S NOT AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO THE CLIENTS

SHE MUST BE FROM THE SALES DEPARTMENT

HELLO THERE..

SO, WELL..

WELL.. I'M..

I'M COMING WITH YOU TO THE NEXT MEETING.

OH... THAT'S GOOD.

YES, WHAT IS IT?

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

FLIP

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TIME WHEN I'M DONE WITH THE PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON NOW.

OH... WELL.

SOUNDS INTERESTING.

HOW ABOUT GOING OUT FOR DINNER WITH ME SOMETIME?

I KNOW A GOOD RESTAURANT.

CREAK

...HMM, THAT'S

...

...

WHEN WILL THAT BE?

I USED TO ACCEPT THOSE INVITATIONS EASILY

FLIP

I'M NOT SURE.

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL AND SEEMS TO LIKE ME NO NEED TO HOLD BACK

IT ALWAYS STARTED LIKE THAT

BUT I KNOW, IN THE END

I JUST ACCEPTED THEIR FEELINGS AND DATED THEM FOR A WHILE

IT WON'T WORK OUT

I AM TO BE BLAMED

THEY WILL DUMP ME,

SAYING "IT WAS A MISTAKE FROM THE BEGINNING"

"PLANNING OF A SHOOTING LOCATION, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE-STYLE HOUSE"

I'll be 38 next year

I'M AWARE OF BECOMING A BORING PERSON

BUT NOTHING INTRIGUES ME THESE DAYS

!

FLIP
FLIP

THIS HOUSE IS OFTEN USED FOR ADS IT'S TOO POPULAR

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A LOCATION FOR A COUPLE TO RELAX IN. SO A JAPANESE-STYLE INN WOULD MAKE IT

THERE HE IS

SAKURAI-SAN IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT HIS WORK LATELY.

IF WE SHOOT IN THAT OLD HOUSE WE WILL DEFINITELY MAKE A BETTER AD

INOLE

INOLE

"REGARDLESS OF GOOD OR BAD, YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR PLAN FOR THE SATISFACTION OF THE CLIENTS AFTER ALL."

EVERY TIME I SHOW HIM MY WORK, HE SAYS, "IT'S NOT BAD,"

HE MAKES ME WONDER. .

HE WAS AMBITIOUS BEFORE.

BUT. . I'D LIKE HIM TO BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC.

I CAN TELL. IT'S OFTEN THE CASE THAT A COMPLETED AD IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'VE ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

HIS WORK WAS REALLY SOMETHING!

AND SATISFY MYSELF BY DOING ROUTINE WORK.

Become a boring grown-up.

IF I WOULD GIVE UP STRIVING TO MAKE A UNIQUE AD SOMEDAY.

IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M NOT TACTFUL!

I THINK SAKURAI-SAN IS RATHER TACTFUL.

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW. YOU MIGHT NOT CHANGE.


#500m2
THUMP
...

BI

YES.

BEEP

HI! SAKURAI-SAN?

IT'S ME...

I SEE. IT CAN'T BE HELPED

YOU MET YOU-CHAN, DIDN'T YOU?

SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY. I GOT A JOB AT THE LAST MINUTE.

YOU WORK A LOT.

YEAH, AND I'VE FORGOTTEN TO GIVE YOU A CALL.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

HERE YOU ARE.

sizzle sizzle

STRANGE... YOU-CHAN HAS NEVER GOTTEN ANGRY WITH ME OR TAKE-SAN.

Take-san.

Another boarder

HE USUALLY GETS UPSET OUT OF THE BLUE.

NO...

...YEAH.

SO, YOU QUARRELLED AGAIN?

steam steam

Here you go. The tuna bowl set.

WHEN I SAY SOMETHING, HE ALWAYS TALKS BACK TO ME. HE'S KIND OF REBELLIOUS.

LIKE WHAT?

DOES HE ALWAYS ACT LIKE THAT?

YEAH! HAMBURGER. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

Let's eat!

SAKURAI-SAN.

CAN YOU TELL HOW YOU-CHAN AND I ARE RELATED?

THAT'S EXCEPTIONAL.

..YOU-CHAN SEEMS TO BE INTERESTED IN YOU, SAKURAI-SAN.

HUH?

WE'RE COUSINS.

...AH... YOU COULD SAY SO.

In some ways.

WE MAY NOT LOOK ALIKE, BUT DON'T YOU THINK TAKE-SAN AND YOU-CHAN DO?

YOU-CHAN OWNS THE HOUSE, BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS TAKING CARE OF COOKING AND OTHER HOUSE ERRANDS.

COUSINS? IS THAT SO?

TAKE-CHAN IS ALSO LIVING THERE ESPECIALLY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU-CHAN.

THE CARETAKER, YOSHITOMI-SAN, HAS BEEN WORKING FOR YOU-CHAN'S FAMILY FOR QUITE A LONG TIME. YOSHITOMI-SAN DOES EVERYTHING FOR YOU-CHAN.

...SAKURAI-SAN,

YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ME ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

..HOW ABOUT YOU?

ME?

YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOLER, AREN'T YOU?

WHY DO YOU LIVE THERE?

EVERYBODY ASKS ME WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS.

YEAH.

UNUSUAL?

IT'S UNUSUAL.

YOU ALSO WERE NOT SURPRISED WHEN I TOLD YOU YOU-CAN IS THE OWNER OF THAT HOUSE.

I LOST MY PARENTS WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

I HAVE NO FAMILY, SO..

OH, THAT'S..

...

I'M NOT CURIOUS WHETHER YOU LIVE WITH YOUR FAMILY OR NOT.

MAYBE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN LIVING ALL BY MYSELF SINCE I WAS A STUDENT.

Nothing.

NO.

WHAT?

SO WHAT DO YOU DO AT HOME?

YOU CAN LIVE BY YOURSELF AS LONG AS YOU CAN WORK.

DON'T MEDDLE IN MY PERSONAL LIFE, OR I WON'T TREAT YOU.

YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND

SHE'S TAKING CARE OF EVERY-THING?

AT HOME?

HOW ABOUT MEALS.

CAN YOU COOK?

I GUESS..

YOU COME EAT WITH US.

How about~

I LIKE TALKING WITH YOU. I'D LIKE YOU TO COME MORE OFTEN.

What are you talking about?

YOUR HOUSE?

SOMETIMES I INVITE MY FRIENDS TO DINNER, BUT YOU-CHAN DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE.

I'M SURE YOU-CHAN WILL WELCOME YOU, TOO.

I DON'T THINK HE WILL.

...

I DON'T WANT TO MINGLE WITH PEOPLE I DON'T THINK I WILL GET ALONG WITH

THE OTHER PERSON USUALLY DOESN'T LIKE ME EITHER

WHEN I DON'T LIKE SOMEONE,

HUH?

I THINK HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?

SLURP

IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMEONE THEN YOU DON'T BOTHER DEALING WITH THEM.

I see

BECAUSE I DON'T GET ALONG WITH HIM.

NOTHING REALLY

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

. OKAY, BUT I WON'T MAIL YOU BACK.

HOW COME..?

I CAN'T CALL YOU WHEN YOU'RE AT THE OFFICE.

Can I have a dessert?

ANYWAY, GIVE ME YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

HUH?

Such a sloppy manner

...

IT'S FINE BY ME! SOMETIMES I FORGET TO REPLY TOO!

In any Case!

KLATA

...

BETTER GET GOING.

phew

EXCUSE ME?

BEEP

BEEP

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU FORGOT THIS.

YES.

TAP

...

I'LL GO THERE.

OPEN

I COULD WAIT FOR HIM TO COME GET IT

OR

AH...

A train pass.

WELL

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

2 HRS LATER

2 HRS LATER

OFF TODAY? DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?

HUH? YEAH.

THEN HOW ABOUT PLANTING SEEDS WITH ME?

OH, I REMEMBER

WE'RE THE KIND PEOPLE WHO TOOK CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU FAINTED HERE A MONTH AGO.

SAKURAI-SAN!

HELLO! IT'S ME!!

YOU REMEMBER ME!?

PLANT SEEDS?

YOU-CHAN GAVE ME SOME SEEDS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SEEDS, THOUGH.

DIG

DIG

WHOA!

HE SAID THEY WILL BLOOM AT THE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN

DIG

IS THAT SO.

YES, IT IS.

IT'S GETTING BIGGER.

IT'S FUN TO WATCH THEM GROW, RIGHT?

I WONDER

WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS HAVE GROWN

PLIP

IT'S WINDY.

Chilly

COLD

PLIP

I WANT TO DO ANYTHING

BUT I HAVE A MEETING TODAY

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

SLIP

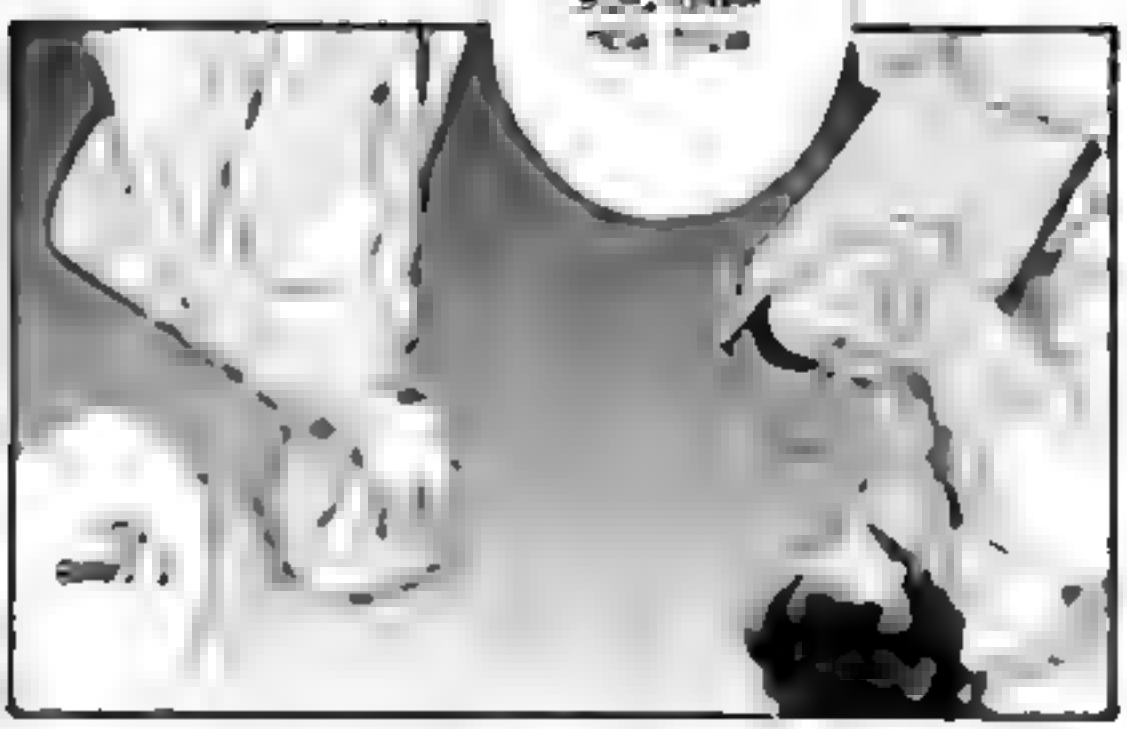
AAGH!

THUD

CRUNCH













DRAWING?

...

SPEAKING OF YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE DARK?

IT'S WINDY AND COLD OUTSIDE.

SAKURAI-SAN.

I REMEMBER YOU HAVE A BOOK OF DRAWINGS.

SO YOU DRAW PICTURES?

I FIND IT ANNOYING.

DON'T ADDRESS ME IN SUCH AN ARROGANT TONE.

HUFF

THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU?

IT'S MY FIRST NAME.

HUH?

SAKURAI-SAN.

...

YOUICHI.

"YOU-CHAN"? SHALL I CALL YOU "YOU-CHAN?"

YOU DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU?

SO I DON'T LIKE YOU EITHER.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT THE WAY YOU SPEAK IRRITATES ME

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO SAY THAT IT'S YOU WHO SHOULD SPEAK IN A DECENT MANNER.

YOU ALWAYS ENTER MY YARD WITHOUT ANY NOTICE

YOU SHOULD BEHAVE PROPERLY EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME

WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO SPEAK LIKE THAT?

DISSED OFF

WHAT A COINCIDENCE

I'M IRRITATED BY THE WAY YOU SPEAK TO ME

GOOD NIGHT

I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M GOING NOW! I'M LEAVING

CLACK

SAKURAKI-SAN

Hmm

NEXT TIME, PLEASE COME INSIDE FROM THE FRONT GATE.





I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS...

...THE SEEDS WOULD HAVE GROWN INTO.

Hidaka Shoko

scanner: gabby
translator: gabby
editor: bl4ckm4lice "thx you so much"
qcers: absconditе & immortalk

release date: 05/31/10
nakamanga.com



第 3 話

OH.

I FEEL TIRED ALL THE TIME

Can't stop yawning

YAWN !

MMM SLEEPY

THAT'S HIM

BLANK

WHERE IS HE GOING? COLLEGE?

A TRAIN IS PASSING THROUGH TRACK THREE.

PLEASE STAY BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.

CHUCKLE

SPACING OUT

HE LOOKS SLEEPY, TOO

WHO'S THAT? HIS FATHER?

HE IS

THIS TRAIN IS BOUND FOR

A TRAIN IS APPROACH NG TRACK ONE.

WHOOSH

HUH? I THINK I SAW HIM SOME-WHERE

AH!

HE SMILED!

SO, ...

HE CAN BE FRIENDLY

RRRRRR

WE CAME A BIT EARLY

BETTER THAN BEING LATE.

BY THE WAY, WE DECIDE TODAY WHERE WE'RE GOING TO SHOOT. ARE YOU READY FOR EVERYTHING?

YES. I MADE A LIST OF THE PLACES WE CAN SHOOT THIS MONTH.

I INCLUDED SOME NEW SPOTS WE'VE NEVER USED FOR SHOOTING BEFORE.

HOW ABOUT THIS PLACE!? IT LOOKS NICE.

SALES

WRITING

PRODUCER

FLIP

WEL... IT DOESN'T SUIT THE SCENE, I'M AFRAID.

ARE YOU LISTENING, SAKURAI-SAN?

HEY!

PUT THAT AWAY.

...OKAY.

FLIP

FLIP

GIGGLE

BUCHOU, YOU SOUND LIKE HIS FATHER.

YOU'RE WORKING ON ANOTHER PROJECT!

Get real!

I'M JUST MAKING A NOTE.

SAKURAI.

YOU CAN DO THAT LATER.

I MEAN, HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU WORK A DAY?

A DAY...

GIGGLE

SHE'S LAUGHING

It was good I didn't mess up the mood

WHAT TIME DO YOU USUALLY GET BACK HOME?

ARE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT AS HARD WORKING AS YOU?

NO NO.

DO YOU EVEN HAVE A PRIVATE LIFE?

PHEW...

TUNK

SINCE WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE A TAXI TO GET HOME LATELY.

I GET UP AT NINE, GET TO THE OFFICE BY TEN.. AND I'LL GO HOME AFTER MIDNIGHT. I GUESS I'M NOT WORKING MORE THAN FOURTEEN HOURS.

I've moved to a new house, so I'm getting enough sleep now. I don't work through the night as often as before

CLICK CLICK CLICK

CLICK CLICK CLICK

HE WAS WORKING AS IF IT WAS A WEEKDAY

With a T-shirt and shorts on.

YEAH, I'VE SEEN HIM ONCE.

PHEW!

SAKURAI-SAN SOMETIMES WORKS ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

GIGGLE

I GO HOME EARLY WHEN I CAN! SAKUSAI-SAN IS THE ONLY WORKAHOLIC.

You know, work is his hobby

YEAH, WE WORK FOR ABOUT 12 HOURS ON AVERAGE.

We usually go home at ten.

HMM, I THINK IT'S STILL QUITE HARD...

I'M TRYING NOT TO WORK ON WEEKEND THESE DAYS.

SCRATCH SCRATCH

IT'S JUST THAT I FOUND A GOOD PLACE FOR GARDENING NEAR MY HOUSE AND. .

SERI-OUSLY? ...

WHAT . ? GARDEN-ING.. ?

BUT I LIKE TO GARDEN AT TIMES.

YOU DON'T KNOW. .

I BET YOU KILL A LOT OF TIME IN YOUR FUTON OVER THE WEEKEND.

Knock it off.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

You want to be soothed?

IF I WERE TO SEE YOU GARDENING, I'D FEEL LIKE IT'S A HOBBY FOR OLDER PEOPLE.

YOUR WEEKENDS SOUND SO BORING

Work is your hobby, isn't it?

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING!

CLICK

OUR PREVIOUS MEETING DIDN'T END ON TIME.

I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND OUT YOU WERE ALREADY HERE.

NEVER MIND, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

SWASH

Ah

HELLO!

WHEW

RATTLE

!

NICE TO MEET YOU.

THIS IS KASHIWAGI-SAN FROM CHLOU AD AGENCY

SPEAKING OF THE PROJECT, YOUR AGENCY MAINLY MANAGES THE PRODUCTION PROCESS, SO TWO OF US, A PHOTOGRAPHER AND I, WILL JOIN FROM OUR AGENCY THIS TIME.

THAT'S HIM

NICE TO MEET YOU.

WHAT A SHAME!

WHAT? ONLY TWO?

WHO SAID THAT MANY STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE JOINING FROM CHLOU AD

KASHIWAGI FROM CHLOL AD AGENCY I'VE HEARD OF HIM

I'm Tanaka from the sales department.

BLT WHY WAS HE WITH YOLICHI?

SAKURAI-SAN!!

OH...

I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.

I SEE I THOLGHT I'D SEEN HIM BEFORE TODAY

I'M SAKURAI NICE TO MEET YOU.

GOSH

bzzz

LOOK, LOOK. I GOT A NAME CARD FROM MR. KASHIWAGI MASAFUMI!!

And I even shook hands with him!!

bzzz

bzzz

HEY, CALM DOWN, INOUE. YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THE PROJECT.

DON'T TELL ME YOU HAD NO IDEA WHO WOULD COME FROM CHLOL AD AGENCY

OF COURSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS COMING! THIS STARTED AS OUR OWN PROJECT AT FIRST BUT IT BECAME A JOINT PROJECT LATER ON.

IS THAT SO

THANK YOU

I MEAN THE NEW CM FOR ? (UNLESS THAT WAS PRODUCED

AS A THANK YOU GIFT

HERE ARE SOME PLANS FROM ADEAST.

THUD

NOW WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE SHOOTING LOCATION.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WINE?

NO.

WE'D LIKE TO CHOOSE A SPOT BASED ON THEM.

Well.

WE WERE NOT INTENDING TO USE A MODEL.

BUT THIS TIME TWO POSTERS WILL BE PUT UP SIDE BY SIDE.

SO. . .

WE DECIDED TO MAKE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF ADS, ONE WITH A MODEL AND THE OTHER ONE WITHOUT

PLEASE REFER TO THE HANDOUTS.

COME TO THINK OF IT,

SAKUSAI-SAN.

YOU DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU?

I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM, ALTHOUGH I'VE ALREADY MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES

SO I DON'T LIKE YOU EITHER.

FLIP

...

IF HE'S NOT COMFORTABLE WITH ME,

!!

THIS IS

O

HE WON'T BOTHER THINKING ABOUT ME

HUH?

□水川邸(みなが

IT'S GOT AN ATMOSPHERE.

AND BEST OF ALL, WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO SHOOT THERE.

THIS OLD HOUSE HAS NEVER BEEN USED FOR ADVERTISEMENT AND I LIKE THIS SPOT VERY MUCH.

HIS HOUSE

MINAGAWA

MINAGAWA YOUICHI!!

THE OTHER TRADITIONAL HOUSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED IN MANY ADS. I DON'T THINK USING THE SAME ONE WILL CATCH PEOPLE'S ATTENTION.

I AGREE WITH YOU.

OH, YOU KNEW THAT?

KIND OF..

A BOARDING HOUSE IN IZUMISAWA?

IS THIS, BY ANY CHANCE,

EXCUSE ME..

YES...

I SEE. . YOU LIVE IN IZUMISAWA.

I LIVE NEAR BY ..

I'M STILL IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE OF MINAGAWA FAMILY.

I USED TO LIVE IN THIS HOUSE.



I WILL LEARN A LOT FROM THEM.

It's a great opportuni ty, if you ask me

..THAT'S QUITE TRUE.

I GUESS SO.

..ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PLAN?

NO, IT WAS MY FIRST TIME.

HAVEN'T YOU MET HIM BEFORE?

BUCHOU SAID HE'D KNOWN HIM FOR SOME TIME.

...

"I ALWAYS GET ALONG WITH THOSE WHO ARE MORE GROWN-UP THAN YOU."

CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

...

DON'T YOU THINK HE LOOKS QUITE YOUNG? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S TWENTY YEARS OLDER THAN ME!

NO BUT OPEN THE WINDOW PLEASE

THOUGH DO YOU MIND IF I SMOKE?

PLOP



SLIDE

HI,

WELCOME HOME, YOU-CHAN.

OKAY I'LL TELL YOSHITOMI-SAN.

RATTLE

THANK YOU.

HEY SHOUTA.

SLIDE

WHAT?

HI. . ARE YOU GOING TO WORK?

YES!

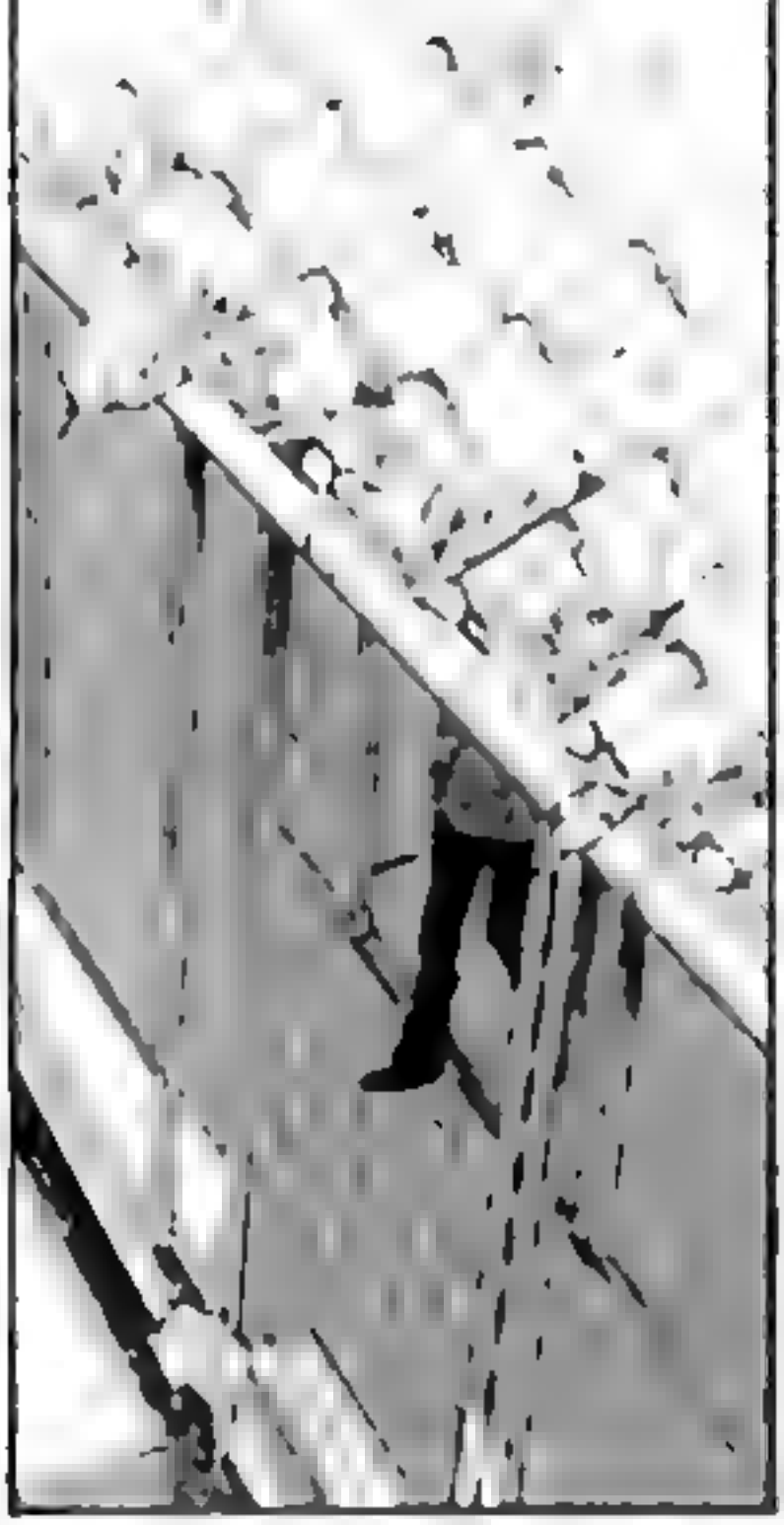
I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE, BUT LEAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT.

YOU CAN'T INVITE YOUR FRIENDS THEN.

GOT IT.

SOME PEOPLE ARE COMING NEXT WEEK.







CLIP

CLIP

FLOP

RUSTLE

Hidaka Shoko

scanner: gabby
translator: gabby
editor: bl4ckm4lice "thx you so much"
qcers: abscondite & mor

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第 4 話

BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE YOU.

NO, I DON'T WANT TO.

SHOW ME YOUR DRAWING.

WHY?

PISSED OFF

YOU-CHAN HARDLY EVER LAUGHS!

HUH!?

LAUGH ONCE.

I'VE ONLY SEEN HIM..

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM LAUGH?

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT WAS WHEN....

ONCE?

He's not listening.

I'VE SEEN HIM LAUGH WHEN..

Y..YES, I HAVE, ONCE.


WOOSH
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ

BZZZZ

MORNING ALREADY

BZZZZ

...

WHAT DID I SET THE ALARM FOR?

IT'S SUNDAY, ISN'T IT?

BAMM

?!

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT LATELY,

RIGHT...

WE'LL SHOOT THE AD TODAY

HMMM

I OFTEN DREAM ABOUT HIM

INOUE!

YES, YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT. I ALSO ASKED YOU THE SMALL FAVOR OF LETTING ME STAY AT YOUR PLACE LAST NIGHT

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT'S YOU WHO ASKED ME TO COME!

Although I have little to do with the project.

BUT YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR OF THIS PROJECT, SO YOU SHOULD BE COMING WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS.

Your house is only a fifteen minute walk from here.

IF YOU HAD BEEN KIND ENOUGH, I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO WAKE UP AT FIVE THIS MORNING!

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

GOOD MORNING, SAKURAI-SAN. YOU SHOWED UP AFTER ALL.

INOUE,

ARE YOU GOING TO USE THAT PLAN?

Plan B?

Y...YES.

THE CLIENT CHOSE THIS.

It can't be helped.

I WENT TO BED AT TWO THIS MORNING.

DO YOU HAVE PLAN A WITH YOU NOW?

THE ONE WE HIGHLY RECOM-MENDED.

YES... I THINK I HAVE IT

In my bag...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

LET ME HAVE A LOOK.

HERE YOU ARE.

NOW? OKAY..

FLIP

BUT THIS ONE WAS..

SAKURAI-SAN?

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

...
...HEY,
GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH.
OH.
HERE YOU ARE.

ADD...
A NEW SCENE HERE.

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
CLICK

YOU CAN GO WITH THIS REVISED PLAN.
WHAT!? ISN'T IT TOO MUCH..?
I JUST MADE MINOR CHANGES, SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL IF WE USED PLAN A OR B.
INSERT THIS INTO YOUR ORIGINAL PLAN.
YES.
MOVE THIS MODEL IN HERE.
YES.

OUR BOSS AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

IF THEY NOTICE THE CHANGES, YOU CAN EXPLAIN THAT THE REVISED PLAN APPEALS TO A BROADER AUDIENCE THAN THE OLD ONE.

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO.

WHAT'S WRONG?

You've got something to say?

.....

I'M GOING TO SHOW THIS TO THE STAFF!

I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT TODAY.

I'M SAYING YOU'RE AWESOME.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I REMEMBER NOW, WHY I'VE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOU.

You can do a good job, really

OH

CRUNCH

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CAME INSIDE FROM THE FRONT GATE

*MINAGAWA

CLATTER

WHAT A BIG GATE

It's a NAME PLATE

!

SLIDE

IT S OPEN

That s not safe

WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE

HE'S HERE

OH!

SWIFT


SIL——ENCE

RIGHT.. LEFT..

WHERE IS HE?

slide

NOT HERE

IT'S A KITCHEN

IT LOOKS ORDINARY

HERE?

IT'S COMING FROM THERE?

sniff

HUH? IS THIS

THIS HOUSE SURE IS

BIG



YOU BARGED IN AGAIN.

SHUSH

SHUSH

AH...
WELL...

...

SORRY.

...

I...

HUH?

WHIP

SO...
THAT'S...

CLATTER
CLATTER

ARE
YOU...

PAINTING
FLOWERS?

YEAH, IT WAS JUST A HUNCH.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD TELL.

RUSTLE

BUT THE SMELL IS REALLY STRONG.

IT REMINDS ME OF MY COLLEGE DAYS.

THE SMELL OF OIL PAINTING MAKES ME NOSTALGIC.

SO YOU DRAW FOR YOUR OWN ENJOYMENT

Have you liked drawing since you were a child?

..MY FATHER LIKED PAINTING

YOUR FATHER!?

THAT'S GOOD. IS THIS FOR AN ASSIGNMENT?

NO.

I'M MAJORING IN OIL PAINTING.

DID YOU MAJOR IN OIL PAINTING?

NO, I MAJORED IN GRAPHICS.

MY FRIEND DID, THOUGH.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HOW DID YOU GET TO KNOW KATSURAGI-SAN?

WHAT IS IT?

THAT'S...

YOUR FATHER IS.. WELL..

NOT KASHIWAGI-SAN, RIGHT?

WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER ON THIS PROJECT.

DIDN'T HE TELL YOU?

KASHIWAGI-SAN WAS MY FATHER'S FRIEND.

...

PROJECT?

THAT'S THE AD WE'RE WORKING ON TOGETHER!

KASHIWAGI-SAN CAME HERE EARLY THIS MORNING HE MIGHT BE WORKING RIGHT NOW.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HE ASKED ME IF HE CAN USE THE PORCH FOR THE PHOTO SHOOT

OH, I SEE.

GLARE

WHAT'S THAT EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE?

I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PROJECT.

...

I'm supposed to help, though. .

SHUSH

.. ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS EVEN WHEN YOU WORK?

WHAT?

YOU'RE SELF-CENTERED AND YOU DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM OTHERS.

YOU'RE FRIENDLY TO EVERYBODY,

BUT THE TRUTH IS, YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANYBODY

HOW COME...

IF MY FATHER WERE ALIVE..

OTHER PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING. IT'S MY PROPERTY, BUT THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE RUNNING A BOARDING HOUSE, RIGHT?

THEN WHY CAN'T YOU BE A BIT FRIENDLIER..

I OWN THIS PLACE, BUT

I THINK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF

I FEEL LIKE MY SECRET HAS BEEN REVEALED BY HIM?

THE SAME GOES FOR ME.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS "

"EVERYBODY ASKS ME"

...

I LOST MY PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN I WAS A CHILD.

MY PARENTS ARE LONG GONE.

I WAS LEFT ALONE.

WHEN DID YOU LIVE HERE... WHEN YOU WERE A COLLEGE STUDENT?

YEAH, I AGREE WITH YOU!

BY THE WAY, THE SCENE FROM THIS ANGLE IS SUPER.

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

I SEE.

WELL, I LIVED HERE FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS.

MY BEST FRIEND WAS THE SON OF THE OWNER THEN.

I OFTEN CAME HERE EVEN AFTER THE GRADUATION.

KASHIWAGI-SAN, INOUE-SAN!

THE HARMONY OF THE WILD TREES AND STREAMING SUNLIGHT ARE ALSO EXCEPTIONAL!

YOU THINK SO?

THE HOUSE ITSELF IS NOTHING SPECIAL, A MERE OLD HOUSE, BUT THIS ANGLE, THE PORCH AND THE WINDOW MAKE IT SUPERB.

...

OH, THAT'S..

IT'S A SUBTLE MATTER, BUT THE NEXT SCENE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BOTH MALE AND FEMALE MODELS SITTING TOGETHER AND..

B

Aah..

I'M AFRAID TO TELL YOU, BUT IS THIS THE SAME PLAN AS BEFORE?

THE CLIENT

I SEE...

WE OFTEN CHANGE SOME DETAILS ACCORDING TO THE ATMOSPHERE.

Bring me that.

Yes.

I ASKED HIM TO MAKE MINOR CHANGES TO THAT SCENE.

COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME?

Since I'm responsible for the shooting

You can count on me.

IN CASE YOU NEED AN AD FOR MAGAZINES, I CAN MAKE ANOTHER ONE WITH BOTH MODELS IN ONE SCENE.

I'M POSITIVE THAT IT'LL CREATE A STRONG IMPACT WHEN THE TWO ADS ARE POSTED SIDE BY SIDE.

I'M SURE IT'S MORE APPEALING.

THE MODELS ARE DOING A BETTER JOB THAN THEY DID AT THE AUDITION, SO I DECIDED TO SHOOT THEIR SCENES SEPARATELY.

I SEE, BUT I HAVE TO ASK MY SENIORS IF .

THAT WAS NOTHING.!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

VWOOSH

IF YOU SAY SO.

I HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT!

I'M COMING TO EXPLAIN LATER.

SAKURAI?

HE'S MY BOSS. HE ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH ME THE OTHER DAY.

I TALKED TO HIM JUST A MOMENT AGO, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S AT NOW...

He said I could count on him, but...

THIS CATCH LINE IS BETTER THAN BEFORE.

DID YOU COME UP WITH THIS?

NO, IT'S SAKURAI'S IDEA.

He was the one who encouraged me to change it.

I DON'T THINK THIS PLAN IS BAD. THE THEME IS THE SAME, SO THEY WON'T BE FUSSY ABOUT THE CHANGES.

YOU WANTED TO GO WITH THIS PLAN, DIDN'T YOU?

AS LONG AS WE MAKE A GOOD POSTER, THEY'LL BE SATISFIED

...

WELL...

KATSURAGI-SAN?

What a coincidence.

I HEARD HE WAS ACQUAINTED WITH THE OWNER, MINAGAWA-SAN,

AND HE HAS STAYED OVERNIGHT HERE BEFORE.

I REMEMBER.. HE LIVES NEAR BY..

THAT'S RIGHT.

YES, HE SAID THE OWNER IS A COLLEGE STUDENT.

HE'S ACQUAINTED WITH YOUICHI?

...

SO, HE GETS ALONG WITH YOUICHI.

WHOOSH

IS THIS A FLOWER?

Hmm

FLOWER

...

SAKURAI-SAN.

CONCENTRATE

SHUSH

SHUSH

OH...

WELL...

I HAVE NOTHING PARTICULARLY TO DO. MY JUNIOR IS TAKING CARE OF THE SHOOTING THIS TIME

HUH?

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY THERE?

YOU even brought a chair

WELL,

..AND

BESIDES,

I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOUR PAINTING.

I CAN'T. .

NO... I MEAN...

...OH.

...

IF I WATCH YOU PAINT .

I THOUGHT I'D BE ... ABLE TO READ YOUR MIND MORE PRECISELY

AS I FOLLOW YOUR STROKES, I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

FOLLOW AND WATCH..

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE STALKING ME.

STALKING!

YOU SEE...

YOU'RE HARD TO COMMUNICATE WITH.

HUH?

I'M HUNGRY

I WANNA DRINK COFFEE

I'LL GO OUT AND EAT

YAWN

I JUST SAID I WANTED TO WATCH YOU PAINT!!

WHAT'S WEIRD?

!!!

YEAH, STOP SAYING SUCH A WEIRD THINGS.

PLEASE BEHAVE LIKE A GROWN-UP.

You're pouting like a child.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY THAT.

YOU ARE *SUCH* A GREAT ARTIST THAT I SHOULDN'T BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE PAINTING.

Sorry to be a bother to you!

OKAY, I GET IT!

slip

!

YANK

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ACT LIKE THAT...

RATTLE

CLATTER

CLATTER

AH!

RATTLE

SPLASH

HOW ABOUT YOU, DID YOU GET ANYTHING ON YOU?

OH

...S

HOW ABOUT THE PAINTING?

SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M OKAY I'M WEARING AN APRON.

NOTH-ING GOT ON THE PAINTING.

CLATTER

MAYBE I CAN GET IT OFF.

... YOU GOT SOME.

LET ME TRY.

SCRUB

SNAP

THAT'S ...

ENOUGH!

IT WAS MY FAULT

I THINK YOU-CHAN LIKES YOU

S...SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.

...I SEE.

I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR PAINTING...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO TROUBLE YOU.

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT ONLY MY PAINTING?

Ah, my coat...

OR CURIOUS ABOUT ME?

...NO...

THEN WHAT IS IT?

NOTHING LIKE THAT!!

I'M INTERESTED IN THIS HOUSE, THE YARD AND...

AND...

Just got up

HI... ISN'T IT SAKURAI-SAN!

AND...!

AND...

BECAUSE SHOUTA IS MY FRIEND.. ?

...

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

Me?

What did you say?

...

KATSURAGI-SAN.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

TAKEO-KUN.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

?

HAVING FUN?

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, JUST PAINTING AND HAVING FUN.

SO SO.

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT

I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO VISIT HIM LATELY.

WELL, IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS HE'S FINE.

WHAT'S YOUICHI UP TO?

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THIS?

DID YOUICHI MAKE IT?

TAP

OH, SHOULD I PUT THIS AWAY?

NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

IN HERE,

SHOUTA AND SAKURAI-SAN PLANTED SEEDS.

YOU KNOW SAKURAI ..

SAKURAI KAZUAKI-SAN. WE HAPPEN TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

HE'S VERY NICE.

CLICK CLICK

HE "TALKS" WITH HIM.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, SHOUTA GETS ALONG WELL WITH HIM.

YOUICHI, TOO.

OH.

SO.

THAT EXPLAINS EVERY-THING.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF SAKURAI-KUN.

...?

What's the difference?

OH, THAT'S MUCH BETTER.

He has a good eye.

AREN'T YOU COLD?

I'M ALL RIGHT.

CLATTER

EXCUSE ME.

EXCUSE ME, WILL YOU STOP FOR A MOMENT?

OKAY.

WE'LL TAKE A BREAK.

KATSURAGI-SAN. SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.

WILL YOU INTRODUCE HER TO ME AFTER THE SHOOTING?

...I CAN'T.

A CAT? I DON'T THINK SO?

Then, where are the flowers now?

...

PAT PAT

I KNOW, YOU-CHAN! IT'S A CAT!

Pictionary

TBC

Hidaka Shoko

scanner: gabby
translator: gabby
editor: bl4ckm4lice "thx you so much"
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Does the flower bloom?

Hidaka Shoko

whap

HE'S BEAUTIFUL.

WHAT DID YOU TAKE THIS FOR?

HE'S THE SON OF MINAGAWA.

IT'S A PICTURE THAT WAS TAKEN AT THE OLD HOUSE WE SHOT AT THE OTHER DAY.

. .WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Don't put them on the keyboard.

WOW!!

IT'S GOT AN AUTO-GRAPH!!

WANNA LOOK!? TOOK A PICTURE WITH KATSURAGI-SAN!!

NICE...

WOW

I envy him..

Annoyed

!click

IS THAT SO.

I HEARD THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS ATTRACTED BY HIS BEAUTY AND COULDN'T RESIST.

AND COULDN'T RESIST TAKING ONE.

I mentioned it to Katsuragi-san.

IS HE

BEAUTIFUL?

YOU MEET HIM OFTEN, RIGHT? GIVE IT TO HIM WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE.

I DON'T SEE HIM THAT OFTEN

WELL.

IN A WAY.

SLIP

And young

BEAUTIFUL

OH.

SAKURAI-KUN?

PRRR

KA-TONK

KA-TONK

KA-TONK

AH, LOOK OVER THERE.

THE POSTERS WE COLLABO-RATED ON WERE MADE PUBLIC TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH A SHORT NOTICE.

NOT AT ALL.

KATSURAGI-SAN.

DON'T YOU WANT TO WORK AS A PLANNER?

HUH?

WELL.. I'M ALMOST OVERWHELMED WITH THE PROJECTS I'M WORKING ON NOW.

WHAT A WASTE.

FOUR POSTERS ARE POSTED IN A ROW, SO MANY PEOPLE STOP TO LOOK AT THEM.

THE PHOTOGRAPH IS QUITE EYE-CATCHING AND THE CATCH PHRASE IS GOOD, TOO.

SO.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT?

A TRAIN IS APPROACHING TRACK FOUR.

STAY BEHIND THE WHITE LINES.

I THOUGHT I'D BETTER TALK ABOUT YOUICHI WITH YOU.

SPLOT

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

THUD

WHAT ARE YOU PAINTING?

YOUR PAINTINGS ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

I'M NOT INTO ABSTRACT PAINTING.

...

YOU'RE FUJIMOTO.

I KNOW.

OH, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? I BELONG TO THE SAME...

WHAT IS THIS FOR?

IS THIS AN ASSIGNMENT?

WHAT IS IT?

HUH?

DO YOU MIND IF I STAY?

CAN'T PAINT?

NOTHING MUCH.

..SO, YOU REMEMBER ME.

YEAH, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS.

...

RUMOR SAYS THAT YOU'RE A RELATIVE OF KASHIWAGI MASAFUMI. IS THAT TRUE?

I HEARD YOU RUN A BOARDING HOUSE.

YOU DON'T LIKE STAYING WITH US?

MINAGAWA. YOU ALWAYS KEEP AWAY FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS.

YOU CAN STAY.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T SPEAK TO ME OR ASK STUPID QUESTIONS.

BUT, IF YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE SMALL TALK, I'D RATHER BE ALONE.

..

SWOOSH

TAKEO-KUN TOLD ME..

THAT YOU OFTEN VISIT THE MINAGAWA RESIDENCE AND THAT YOU GET ALONG WITH YOUICHI

YOUICHI. HE'S NOT ORDINARY, IS HE?

..OH, YES..

BUT I JUST STARTED TO GET TO KNOW HIM.

HE'S DIFFERENT.

I MEAN...

HUH? WELL. I THINK..

HE'S JUST LIKE OTHER YOUNGSTERS.

HE DOESN'T LAUGH A LOT, DOES HE?

I THINK HE IS LACKING SOMETHING WHICH AN ORDINARY NINETEEN YEAR OLD SHOULD HAVE.

HE DOESN'T CARE FOR OTHERS, AND ALL THE MORE SO WHEN IT COMES TO HIMSELF

HE DOESN'T SHOW AN INTEREST IN ANYTHING

IN OTHER WORDS, HE LACKS EMOTIONS..

BUT I CAN'T TELL WHAT IT IS.

YOU'RE SELF-CENTERED AND DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM OTHERS.

YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ANYBODY.

SO, HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF THEN

YOUICHI DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING AND HE DOESN'T LIKE THINGS CHANGING AROUND HIM.

SPEAKING OF THAT HOUSE, I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING.. HE'S DONE NOTHING UP UNTIL NOW.

BUT WHEN I VISITED THERE THE OTHER DAY, MY FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, I SAW HIM ARRANGING SOME STONES IN THE GARDEN.

I GOT CURIOUS AND ASKED HIM AT THE STATION

WHAT HE WAS DOING THEN.

THAT S

What? Is he working on something?

YOUICHI

AND TO MY SURPRISE.. HE EVEN LAUGHED PLEASANTLY

BUT... YOUICHI WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SAME COLLEGE AS HIS FATHER.

IT'S AS IF HE'S TRACING HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

I'M NOT SAYING HE SHOULD NOT FOLLOW THE PATH OF HIS FATHER.

HIS FATHER WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL PAINTER AND A GOOD MAN.

...WHEN HIS FATHER DIED,

PEOPLE AROUND HIM, INCLUDING ME, MIGHT HAVE LED HIM DOWN THE WRONG PATH, I'M AFRAID

WE MAY HAVE LAID A HEAVY BURDEN ON HIM.

YOUICHI

YOUICHI-KUN.

MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GATHERING IN THIS HOUSE SOMEDAY YOU SHOULD RUN A BOARDING HOUSE HERE YOUR FATHER WAS VERY SOCIABLE

YOUICHI

YOUR FATHER USED THESE PAINTING TOOLS YOU CAN HAVE THEM TO DRAW PICTURES

YOU TAKE AFTER YOUR FATHER IN EVERY WAY

YOU'RE THE SON OF YOUSUKE YOU MUST BE TALENTED LIKE YOUR FATHER

YOU CAN FOLLOW THE PATH OF YOUR FATHER AND

...

AH.

" I VE BEEN
REGRETTING

IF ALL THE
PEOPLE WHO
ONCE WERE
FASCINATED
WITH HIS
FATHER AND I

MADE HIM
LIVE IN A SMALL
WORLD "

YOU DID IT AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TODAY?

.. YOU'RE DRAWING FLOWERS.

NOTHING BUT FLOWERS.

YOU LIKE DRAWING.

...

IT WAS A MAGAZINE OF FLOWERS WE SWAPPED AT THAT TIME, TOO.

I BOUGHT IT BECAUSE I LIKED THE PICTURE OF ROSES ON THE FRONT COVER.

"I HAVE THE SAME ONE, LET'S SWAP."

HEY! SAY SOMETHING! DON'T IGNORE ME!

.....

YOU HAVE YOUR FOOT IN THE GARDEN.

WHAT!?

SAKURAI-SAN.

THAT WAS CLOSE. I DIDN'T STOMP ON ANYTHING

PFFT

giggle

HE IS—

"ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT MY PAINTING?"

LAUGHING

"OR ME?"

..SAKURAI-SAN?

...

OUT OF THE BLUE.

I'VE LONG FORGOTTEN

WITHOUT ANY REASON,

JUST A TRIVIAL THING

AND I'LL GO CRAZY WITH A CAREFREE WORD OR A NONCHALANT ACT

I'M TEMPTED TO SEE THIS PERSON

FORGOTTEN ALL THESE FEELINGS

SAKURAI-SAN?

CAN MAKE ME UNSTABLE

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

OH.. WELL,

I .. RECEIVED A PICTURE FROM INOUE..

KASHIWAGI-SAN TOLD ME—

?

SO PLEASE BE FRIENDS WITH HIM AND VISIT HIS HOUSE FROM TIME TO TIME

WHEN I TALK WITH HIM, HE INEVITABLY REMEMBERS THE PAST

NOT AT ALL

THANKS FOR JOINING ME TODAY

AT THAT MOMENT I SQUEEZED HIS PICTURE IN MY POCKET.

I HOPE YOU'LL STAY CLOSE TO YOUICHI

SAKURAI-SAN.

AND A COLLEGE STUDENT

A MAN

BUT HE IS

MY HEART

...

POUND POUND POUND

I'M THIRSTY

FEELING SOMEWHAT GUILTY

HE SAID HE DOESN'T LIKE ME

TO BEGIN WITH, HE'S NOT HAPPY ABOUT SEEING ME

HOW COME?

I'VE LONG FORGOTTEN WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO FALL IN LOVE

HOW COULD I BE LIKE THIS?

AS IF I M CAUGHT UP IN SOMEONE

I'VE FORGOTTEN

IS HE

IS HE ALWAYS THIS BEAUTIFUL ?

I NEVER EVER EXPECTED THAT I'D FALL

MADLY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE

I WAS INTERESTED IN ONLY MYSELF



Does the flower bloom?

Hidaka Shoko

Hidaka Shoko

scanner: gabby
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第 6 話

ARE YOU COMING BACK LATE AGAIN TONIGHT?

YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE LEAVING SOON

YOUICHI

YOU CAN MANAGE. CAN'T YOU?

DON'T WORRY I ASKED YOSHITOMI-SAN TO LOOK AFTER YOU

YEAH, WE'LL BE BACK LATER THAN USUAL

YES, I CAN

YOUICHI?

THAT'S MY BOY

GOOD

Ruffle

SEE YOU, SON

HEY,

IS IT TRUE MINAGAWA IS THE OWNER OF A BOARDING HOUSE?

IS IT CLOSE TO HERE?

HUH? YEAH.

...

IS THAT SO. .

MY FRIEND ATTENDED THE SAME CLASS AS HIM WHEN THEY WERE FRESHMEN. MY FRIEND'S FATHER RUNS A REAL ESTATE AGENCY.

HE SAID MINAGAWA LIVES IN A BIG HOUSE ACROSS FROM THE STATION, AND THAT MANY STUDENTS FROM OUR COLLEGE USED TO LIVE THERE.

BUT LOTS OF APARTMENTS HAVE BEEN BUILT NEAR THE STATION, SO NOBODY WANTS TO LIVE IN A BOARDING HOUSE ANYMORE.

IT'S INCONVENIENT TO LIVE IN AN OLD HOUSE.

I DOUBT THAT IT'S STILL USED AS A BOARDING HOUSE.

I SEE.

WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP IN ANOTHER CLASS.

HE STANDS APART FROM OTHERS AND DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING, SO YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S REALLY THINKING

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

DON'T YOU THINK

HE'S HARD TO TALK TO?

I DON'T GET ALONG WITH HIM, EITHER.

HIS FATHER IS SAID TO HAVE GRADUATED FROM THIS SCHOOL AND BECOME A FAMOUS PAINTER.

THAT'S HOW I THINK SOME OF THE PROFESSORS FEEL WHEN THEY DISAGREE.

THAT'S EXACTLY IT.

I GOT A TEXT FROM THE DISSERTATION AND IT SAYS THE COMPUTER HAS YET LAYOUT WAS ALREADY SENT TO YOU.

SALARIAT-SAN.

flap
flap

SAKURAI-SAN, A SCHEDULE FOR THE SHOOTING IS DONE.

Please look it over.

OKAY.

YES, GOT IT.

THE THEME IS GOOD, SO TELL THEM TO HAND IN TWO MORE LAYOUTS WITH DIFFERENT DESIGNS.

clack
clack

I'VE CHECKED IT.

NOW.

COMING!

STAMP
STAMP

SAKURAI. TIME FOR THE MEETING.

YES. I'M COMING SOON.

flip

Such a rush

...

flip
flip

I GOT A NEW OFFER FROM A FOREIGN-FINANCED HOTEL. YOU'D BETTER COME IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THIS PROJECT

OH, YES!

INOUE, COME WITH ME.

HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JUST LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS.

CLACK CLACK

BUT HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING IT.

YEAH.

SAKURAI-SAN IS WORKING EXTREMELY HARD THESE DAYS.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HE'S ONLY BEEN WORKING ON BASIC PROJECTS.

HE WAS EAGER TO UNDERTAKE NEW PROJECTS ALL THE TIME AND ALL OF THEM BROUGHT SUCCESS.

SAKURAI-SAN IS REALLY SOMETHING. HE WON A NUMBER OF PRIZES WHEN HE WAS IN HIS TWENTIES.

I'M GLAD HE'S REDISCOVERED HIS VITALITY. I DREAMED OF WORKING IN THIS COMPANY BECAUSE OF HIM, AFTER ALL.

I CAN SWAP.

FLOWER...

WHAT FLOWER WAS HE PAINTING?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD TELL

YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME SEEDS

HE WAS JUST PUTTING SOME COLORS ON THE CANVAS.

BUT I WAS ABLE TO TELL SOMEHOW

HUH!? YOU'RE KIDDING.

I'LL TAKE THIS HOME. I'M LEAVING EARLY TODAY.

SLIP

THANK YOU.

SAKURAI-SAN! HERE ARE THE DOCUMENTS.

CLICK

NO. . IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT

TAP

DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT?

UMM... WELL....

TAP

IF NOT

IF YOLICHI IS NOT IN

HE MIGHT BE DELIGHTED WITH SWEETS

THESE ARE FOR SHOL-TA

But ten pieces of cake might be overk.

IF HE'S NOT THERE THEN I'LL GIVE THEM TO TAKE-SAN

RUSTLE

HUH?

OH.

DO YOU LIVE HERE?

HUH?

N...NO.

HIS?

..YO—

YOUICHI'S

IS THIS MINAGAWA THE BOARDING HOUSE?

WELL. IT'S KIND OF A BOARDING HOUSE, BUT ONLY HIS RELATIVES LIVE HERE.

WE...L... YES.

HE'S YOUICHI.

I'm not wrong.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

YOUICHI?

OH.

...FUJI-MOTO?

WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?













Then what is it?

I'm saying I wanted to say thank you!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

I JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE FOR LETTING US USE YOUR HOUSE FOR THE SHOOTING

I GOT PAID FOR THAT FROM KASHIWAGI-SAN.

MAY I COME INSIDE, TOO?

SHOUTA AND TAKE-SAN ARE—

BY THE WAY, IS SHOUTA IN?

MINAGAWA, I'D LIKE TO LIVE AROUND HERE.

IS THERE A ROOM AVAILABLE FOR ME?

HUH!?

GOOD WORK.

AH.

AH.

CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

HUH?

No, no

WE'RE NOT AS BUSY AS THE PRODUC-TION DE-PARTMENT

IT'S TOUGH TO WORK IN THE SALES SECTION.

YES.

I DIDN'T GET ANY NEW CONTRACTS TODAY

GOOD WORK ARE YOU GOING HOME?

WHAT IS IT?

AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW THE STORY

I HEARD A RUMOR FROM MY CO-WORKER IN THE SALES SECTION.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT..

THEN IT MIGHT JUST BE A RUMOR.

I DON'T WANT HIM TO LEAVE THE OFFICE.

IT'S ABOUT SAKURAI-SAN.

IS IT TRUE HE'L.. BE TRANSFERRED TO A BRANCH OFFICE?

SHOJITA.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

TAP

TAP



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番 外 編 Additional story

鼠 た ち の 話

A STORY OF MICE

LEAVE THEM THERE.

OKAY.

SHAA

SLOSH

SLOSH

TAKEO!

MORE TO COME!

CLINK

CLINK

SHAA

SHAA

SLOSH

RUB

RUB

SHAA

NO, I CAN'T.

HEY! YAMADA WILL DO THE DISHES, SO COME OVER HERE AND SERVE THE CUSTOMERS AFTER FIVE.

IS THAT SO?

YOU REALLY CAN'T?

SHAA

I NEED TO BE FINISHED BY FIVE TODAY.

CLINK

CLINK

CLICK

SLAM

MANY WOMEN CAN'T RESIST COMING INSIDE WHEN THEY SEE YOU STANDING IN THE CORNER OF THE RESTAURANT.

What a bummer

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO FINISH UP SO EARLY.

GOOD WORK.

A DATE?

YEAH.

Good work.

NO.

OH, I REMEMBER HIM COMING HERE SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST...

...A COUSIN?

A HIGH SCHOOLER?

I GUESS SO. HE CAN'T BE A FRIEND.

HAVE A NICE DAY.

I'M HANGING OUT WITH MY COUSIN.

CLICK

GOOD WORK.

HE'S USUALLY BLUNT AND INATTENTIVE, BUT HE TOOK GOOD CARE OF THE BOY THEN.

SERVING A CAKE AND COFFEE.

THAT'S SO NOT LIKE HIM.

GUESS I BETTER SEE TO THE CUSTOMERS.

YEAH.

Thanks!

Chatter

Chatter

Chatter

HE'S LATE AGAIN

JUST ONE TEXT I GOT FROM HIM AN HOUR AGO

HE NEVER COMES EARLY

I should have stayed at work longer

clatter

clatter

WHISPER

WHISPER

YAWN

HUH?

PAID

PAID

?

AND SHOUICHI TOOK IN THE BOY AFTER ALL

HIS MOTHER [illegible] SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED

RELATIVES ON HIS MOTHER'S SIDE OFFERED [illegible] TO LOOK AFTER HIM, BUT THEY RUN A NIGHTCLUB IN GINZA. IT'S NO PLACE FOR A BOY TO LIVE

WHAT NERVE

THE BOY IS CALLED SHOUTA, THE NAMESAKE OF HIS FATHER SHOUICHI

SHOUICHI NEEDS TO SAVE FACE

WELL,

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT

OR SHOULD I LOOK AFTER HIM FOR A WHILE?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SON TO LOOK AFTER

THAT'S RIGHT AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, AYAKO-SAN IS NOT DOING WELL. IS SHE?

ANYWAY

WE'D BETTER NOT TALK ABOUT IT HERE

CHILDREN ARE SENSITIVE LIKE MICE

YOU NEVER KNOW IF THEY'RE EAVESDROPPING

GASP

SLIDE

!!


SLIP
THUNK



whisper

whisper

HE WAS ONLY THIRTY SEVEN.

AND HIS WIFE WAS EVEN YOUNGER

whisper

*MINAGAWA

I WONDER

WHO'S GOING TO LOOK AFTER YOUICHI FROM NOW ON?

WHO'S GOING TO TAKE OVER THE LAND AT IZUMISAWA.

HOW ABOUT THE BOY WHO WAS TAKEN IN BY THE MINAGAWA FAMILY?

YOUICHI

Ah!

THAT ILLEGITIMATE CHILD

THEY STAND IN COMPLETELY OPPOSITE POSITIONS. ONE IS YOUSUKE'S OWN CHILD AND THE OTHER, A CHILD OF SHOUCHI'S MISTRESS

OH

SHOJTA IS A GOOD BOY

RUSTLE RUSTLE

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?

YAKKO-SAN

HE S NOT A GOOD BOY!!

SNAP

HMPH

I'M MAKING A YAKKO-SAN.

YOUSUKE-OJISAN TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE THIS

HUH?

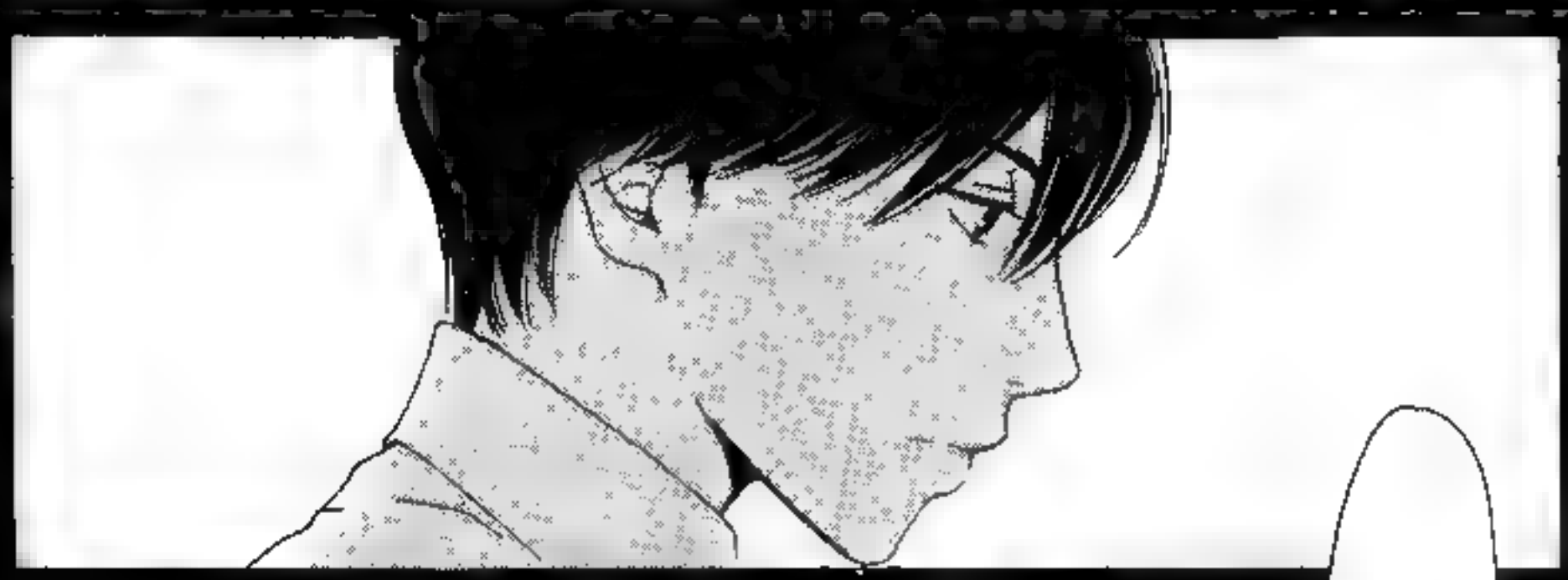
Yakko-san?

I SEE

YOUICHI ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UNCLE YOUSUKE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ONLY RELATIVE FOR HIM TO RELY ON






NOW THAT HIS UNCLE IS GONE
TAKEO.
TO HIM?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHAT IS YOUICHI GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON?

RUSTLE

I THINK YOSHITOMI-KUN MIGHT TAKE CARE OF HIM

I HEARD THAT HE WANTS TO LIVE BY HIMSELF AT IZUMISAWA WHEN HE BECOMES A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

HOW ABOUT LIVING IN YOUICHI-KUN'S HOUSE ONCE YOU ENTER A COLLEGE?

YOUICHI?

THAT HOUSE IN IZUMI-SAWA?

YEAH.

WHO?

AND ALSO THAT BOY WILL LIVE THERE, TOO.

IT'S SAFER IF YOU CAN LIVE THERE TOGETHER

RATTLE

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?

flap

YES SHOUTA-KUN WILL JOIN YOU.

HE'S A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT NOW I'M WONDERING IF WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO SUPPORT HIM AND HELP THE YOSHITOMI FAMILY

Ahem!

ANYWAY IT'D BE HELPFUL FOR US IF YOU AGREE TO LIVE THERE.

GRUMBLE

I THINK IT'S GOOD FOR SHOUTA-KUN TO LIVE THERE. HE CAN BE FREE FROM THE FAMILY ISSUES

BUT I AM AFRAID THEY WON'T LISTEN TO US THEY ARE BOUND BY AN OLD FASHIONED WAY OF THINKING AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY THINK OF HIM

GRUMBLE

GRUMBLE

I COULDN'T LET GO OF THE IMAGE OF MY COUSINS AT THE FUNERAL

I SEE

THE BOY, WHO WILL LIVE IN FAVOR WITH GROWN-UPS, LIKE HIS FATHER

AND THE OTHER, WHO IS LIKELY TO BE FORGOTTEN

PAT PAT PAT PAT

TAKE-SAN!

IT'S NOT A BIT, YOU'RE AN HOUR LATE.

AND YOU SMELL SWEATY.

haa haa

...SORRY!

I'M A BIT LATE.

HE'S ALWAYS UNNECESSARY -ILY

BOISTER-OUS

ARGH!

WHAM

Who cares?

SO WHAT?

Ouch!

SWOOSH

Anything will do I'm hungry

What do you want to eat?

I CAN'T TELL IF HE MANAGES NOT TO WORRY ABOUT HIS SURROUNDINGS,

OR IF HE'S JUST TRYING NOT TO SEE THE REALITY

SHOUTA IS A GOOD BOY.

PLEASE BE FRIENDS WITH HIM

YOUSUKE-OJISAN

HE WEARS A VERY SAD FACE SOMETIMES..!

AND FEEL SORRY

HOW I CAN BEFRIEND HIM THEN

I DON T KNOW

!

WHAT IS IT?

YOU SMELL SWEATY. LET'S GO HOME AND HAVE DINNER

ruffle

HUH...?

ANYTHING YOU SAY..



END

SAKURAI-SAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE 35 YEARS OLD WHEN I STARTED TO TACKLE THIS MANGA, BUT AS THE STORY PROCEEDS, HE GOT OLDER IN MY IMAGINATION AND ENDED UP BEING 37.

I USED TO STUDY OIL PAINTING, SO THIS REMINDS ME OF THOSE DAYS. I LIKE OIL PAINTING BECAUSE I CAN CHANGE IT AS MUCH AS I WANT JUST BY ADDING COLORS ONE AFTER ANOTHER

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BUYING HANA WA SAKUKA VOLUME 1.
I MADE THE STORIES OF THE FIRST VOLUME QUITE A WHILE AGO,
SO I HAD TO CHANGE AND ADD A LOT TO RELEASE THIS. I HOPE IT'S
GOTTEN BETTER. I OWE A LOT TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN CHARGE
OF MY WORK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I PLANNED TO MAKE A MANGA ABOUT
A BOARDING HOUSE, WHERE MANY PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER, AND NOW A NEW
PERSON WILL LIKELY JOIN THE BOARDING HOUSE. THE STORY GOES REALLY
SLOW, BUT I'LL TRY HARD TO BE ABLE TO RELEASE THE NEXT VOLUME
BEFORE LONG. I HOPE YOU'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
SEE YOU IN THE SECOND VOLUME!

I INTENDED TO NAME EACH PERSON WITH ONE CHINESE CHARACTER,
WITH THEIR MEANINGS RELATED TO PLANTS AND FLOWERS. "TAKE-SAN"
WAS A LAST NAME AT FIRST, BUT IT WAS CHANGED INTO A FIRST NAME,
AND I WAS A BIT CONFUSED IN MY MIND.

TO MIKIKO, SACCHAN
AND SAKAE-SAN,
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TO THE DESIGNER, I'M
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WORK.

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